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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ND LOTTERY PAYS OUT \$1.5 MILLION**

BISMARCK – Higher than expected lottery sales have resulted in a big payout for the state's General Fund and the Compulsive Gambling Prevention and Treatment Fund, announced Lottery Director Chuck Keller.

The lottery is required to transfer net income from ticket sales to the general fund each year. For legislative budgetary purposes, it was forecast that the Lottery would generate \$1.431 million in general fund revenue for the entire 2003-2005 biennium. The Lottery's first quarter total sales (through June 30) were \$5,715,939, or 52% of the \$11 million total sales projected for the whole biennium.

"Tickets sales have exceeded expectations, said Keller. "After only three months of operation, the Lottery's first annual transfer to the general fund was \$1,431,000 - the amount projected for the entire biennium."

The Lottery initially projected that about 21 cents of each dollar of sales would go to the general fund. However, if sales continue at the current rate, the Lottery projects almost 30 cents of each dollar will go to the general fund.

Each quarter, five percent of the Lottery's gross profit (up to \$400,000 each biennium) is transferred to the Compulsive Gambling Prevention and Treatment Fund. Reflecting the exceptional first quarter sales, the Lottery transferred \$139,511 to the Compulsive Gambling Fund, and expects to transfer the entire \$400,000 to the fund by the end of 2004.

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